

I. The Story of Joseph (Genesis 37-48)

- A. Jacob: third of the great patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) that God had promised to make a great nation.
 - i. Now it looks like it might happen: Jacob has 12 sons by four women.
 - ii. A beloved wife who bore only two:
- B. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son ... dreams ... coat ... plot ... pit ... slavery.
- C. (Judah: disgraces himself, Genesis 38)
- D. Jacob nearly dies of grief.
- E. Joseph prospers in Egypt ... attempted seduction and accusation ... jail ... dreams ... Pharaoh's dreams and the coming famine ... marries ... sons: "forgetting" and "fruitful"
- F. Ten older sons go to Egypt to buy grain during the famine ... bargaining with Joseph ... questions about father and youngest brother ... spying accusation ... Simeon held hostage while they come back with Benjamin ... find their money in their grain sacks.
- G. Return to Canaan ... Simeon cools his heels ... back to Egypt with Benjamin ... accusation of thieving ... Benjamin held by Joseph to become a slave ... Judah offers himself. (Genesis 44:18-34)
- H. Joseph reveals himself, forgives. The one who would have been judge throws his arms around his brothers in mercy and forgiveness!

II. The blessings of Jacob (Genesis 49)

- A. Piles of blessings for Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh – but *not* the blessing of rule! (Genesis 49:1-4,8-12,22-27)
- B. Rule goes to Judah. Why?
 - i. Given the opportunity to leave his brother Benjamin in slavery in Egypt, Judah offered himself instead.
 - ii. In the place of Joseph and his descendants, rule is given to Judah and his descendants.
- C. (What is evidence of true hatred of sin? Not doing it again.)
- D. (Who should rule? The person who puts the good of others before himself. Remember this as we look in the future for leaders within the church.)
- E. And rule *does* come to Judah: not the first king but the great king, the one God made a covenant with: David.

III. Until Shiloh comes

- A. Puzzling phrase. Probably not a name but a title: "he to whom [the scepter] belongs"
- B. Who is this figure that will take the rule from Judah? Is that possible, if God made an eternal promise to David? (Romans 1:3-4)
- C. The true Lion, the lion of the tribe of Judah is a slain lamb (Revelation 5)
- D. We want a lion, and we need a lamb
- E. Back to repentance: why do we struggle with sin? Because we still serve something or someone else as supreme. Something other than Jesus.
- F. Every other would-be ruler of your life will fail you, enslave you, and kill you.